

Mr. Speaker, we would be remiss if we did not take this time to honor his service, remember his sacrifice, and mourn his passing.

# TRIBUTE TO CINCO DE MAYO

## HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mexican patriots who gave their lives to fight valiantly and successfully against an overwhelming French Army on May 5, 1862.

This is the week of Cinco de Mayo, a time to celebrate the courage and bravery of Mexican Americans and of all those who have fought for the freedoms of self-governance.

By celebrating Cinco de Mayo we honor the history of democracy in North America and remind ourselves that though our nation is made up of many diverse people and cultures, we all share a commitment to democratic freedom.

Last year this House passed Concurrent Resolution 44, a bill that recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Today, along with the other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I have called on the Senate Judiciary Committee to take up this resolution and pass it.

Many celebrate this day with festivals, singing, and dancing. But this day is more than a party. It is a celebration of cultural pride and the respect for the rights of all people. And the Senate should celebrate this day by passing H. Con. Res. 44.

# HONORING SMURFIT-STONE'S SAFETY RECORD OF ONE MILLION WORK HOURS WITH NO INJURIES

## HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Smurfit-Stone Containerboard Mill for achieving the admirable safety record of one million work hours without a recordable injury of any kind.

The Smurfit-Stone Containerboard Mill is an economically vital contributor to both the city of Brewton, and the state of Alabama. They are also the largest producer of containerboard products in North America with 18 mills. The mill has been in operation since 1957, and employs 583 people.

Smurfit Stone is the industry's leading integrated manufacturer of paper-based packaging products. However, it is only when a manufacturer provides a safe work environment for its employees that the company becomes the corporate neighbor that we all admire and respect. This is only the fourth time this milestone has been reached by paper mills in North America.

It is my sincere hope that the Smurfit-Stone Containerboard Mill will continue to set highly commendable examples for others in their industry, and I rise today to congratulate the employees and managers for the contributions

they have made toward the betterment of Alabama.

# RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BALTIMORE BASILICA

## HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of America's first cathedral, the historic and beautiful Baltimore Basilica. Officially known as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this magnificent cathedral, built from 1806 to 1821, stands as a symbol of the beginning of the Catholic Church in America, and the religious freedoms embodied in our Constitution.

For over a century until the Revolutionary War, Catholics in America were a devoted but persecuted minority. After the Constitution was adopted, the Catholic Church embarked on the construction of a cathedral to celebrate their faith and their new-found right to worship freely.

Under the guidance of the future first archbishop of America, John Carroll, a hill above the Baltimore Inner Harbor was selected in 1806 as the site for the cathedral. After hearing about the proposed church, Benjamin Harry Latrobe volunteered his services as chief architect. Latrobe, the architect of the United States Capitol, is considered the father of American architecture and is responsible for what is now considered one of the world's most impressive buildings of the 19th century.

In addition to its structural magnificence, the cathedral has fulfilled its place as one of the most historically significant churches in the world. Two-thirds of all American Catholic dioceses can claim their roots at the Baltimore Basilica, and three Plenary Councils guiding the Catholic Church's role in the expanding United States were held within its walls. The Basilica continued to embrace progressive ideals throughout the years by, for example, including the first order of African-American nuns in its convent.

As we do today, the Baltimore Basilica has been honored on many occasions for its greatness. In 1937, Pope Pius XI raised the cathedral to the rank of a Minor Basilica. In 1972 it was declared a National Landmark and then in 1993 a National Shrine. The Basilica has also been greatly honored by the visits of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1995 and Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, for the past two centuries, the Baltimore Basilica has stood as a beacon of hope and religious freedom. An architectural masterpiece built by two great visionaries, the Basilica continues to be "a shining citadel" of faith and hope for Maryland and the United States.

# HONORING CHERYL NIX, SOUTH BEND SCHOOL CORPORATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Cheryl Nix who was recently honored as the South Bend School Corporation's Teacher of the Year.

Cheryl is a math teacher at LaSalle Intermediate Academy in South Bend, Indiana and has been a teacher in South Bend for 29 years. She began her teaching career in 1976 at Monroe Primary School in South Bend teaching deaf and hearing-impaired children. She has been married 26 years and, in addition to teaching her students, she also has a full-time teaching job as a mother of two children.

Her 29 years of dedication and excellence in one of our Nation's most important professions deserves our honor and our respect. We don't spend enough time highlighting the great things that are happening every day in our schools.

It has been said many times, and will always be true, that our children are our future. Their education is the key to making sure that they have the proper tools to succeed when it is their turn to steer the ship of this Nation. As long as teachers such as Cheryl Nix are entrusted with that responsibility, I have confidence that our future as a Nation will be bright.

# PATARA: THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1800 YEARS AND 7000 MILES AWAY

## HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the city of Patara in Turkey sports a fantastic beach that sprawls for more than 11 miles. It recently rated number one, on the London Sunday Times' list of the world's best beaches. But Patara is worth our attention for more than sand and surf. An archeological team led by Akdeniz University Professors Fahri Isik and Havva Iskan Isik recently unearthed an ancient parliament building in Patara—the meeting place of the first federal republic in recorded human history. The building, called the Bouletarion, housed at least twenty-three city-states of the Lycian League, which existed along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey from about 167 BC until 400 AD.

The Lycian League's republican governing system, utilizing proportional representation, was unparalleled in the ancient world, and fascinated the pioneering intellectuals of the Enlightenment, particularly Montesquieu. Depending on the size of the member cities, each elected one, two or three representatives to the Lycian parliament. When cities were too small, two or three banded together to share one representative vote. The six largest cities in the League had the right to three votes. The parliament elected a president, called the "Lycearch," which at various times served as